

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 EUR-25 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

IO-14 DRC-01 /204 W

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FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 653

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0903

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, SY, ENRG

SUBJECT: SYRIAN PETROLEUM DELEGATION TO VISIT U.S.

1. A SIX-MAN OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IS LEAVING THIS WEK TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS FOR REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, INCLUDING GREASE, LUBRICATING OIL, TRANSMISSION FLUID, ETC. IN ADDITION TO US, DELEGATION PLANS TO VISIT UK, ITALY, FRANCE, RUMANIA, BELGIUM, GREECE AND WEST GERMANY. IN NEW YORK THEY SCHEDULED MEET WITH MOBIL OIL COMPANY AND HOPE, IN ADDITION, TO SEE REPRESENTATIVES OF EXXON, VALVOLIN, AND TEXACO.

2. DELEGATION INCLUDES: NADER KELANE (HEAD OF DELEGATION) FROM SYRIAN ARAB DISTRIBUTING COMPANY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (SADCOP); JAMIL AHMED CHAHROUR AND AWAD RASHID AMMOURA (ALSO OF SADCOP); DR. MOUNIR CHAMMAS (MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY); FOZI OSMAN (MINISTRY OF FINANCE); AND MOHAMMAD KHEIR ATTAR (MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION).

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3. WHILE WE HAVE NO EXACT ARRIVAL DATE, DELEGATION LEADER

TOLD US HE HOPED BE IN US ON OR ABOUT JULY 15. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE GROUP CAN BE GIVEN. CERTAINLY INTERESTED AMERICAN FIRMS SHOULD BE ALERTED. UNFORTUNATELY, SYRIANS UNCERTAIN WHERE THEY WILL BE STAYING. THEY WILL, NO DOUBT, BE IN TOUCH WITH THE SYRIAN MISSION TO UN AND YOU MIGHT GET MORE DETAILS FROM MOBIL.

4. COMMENT: WE VIEW IT AS GOOD SIGN THAT OFFICIAL DELEGATION HAS INCLUDED US IN ITINERARY AND IS, IN FACT, SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN FIRM. THIS SUPPORTS OUR OFT-REPEATED BELIEF THAT SYRIA IS INTERESTED BOTH IN THEORY AND IN FACT IN CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE BEIRUT
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